



GREATER
MONTANA
FOUNDATION

COPY

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EXHIBIT 19
DATE Jan. 28, 2013
HB 14

January 23, 2013

The Honorable Rob Cook, Chairman
Long Range Building Committee Appropriations Subcommittee
P.O. Box 200400
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620-400

**Re: Support for funding for the Montana Heritage Center, HB 2
Hearing on January 28, 2013**

Dear Chairman Cook and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Greater Montana Foundation, I offer our strong support for the appropriations and bonding authority in the Governor's Budget and HB 14 JOBS bill, for the new construction of the Montana Heritage Center, as requested by the Montana Historical Society.

Because we believe so strongly in the need for the Montana Heritage Center, GMF has pledged \$600,000 over six years, with \$500,250 in grant funds donated to date. This grant is an investment in the future and supports Museum modernization and expansion, including the establishment of the E.B. Craney studio and broadcast production facilities at MHS. E.B. "Ed" Craney, visionary pioneer Montana broadcaster, entrepreneur and philanthropist established the Greater Montana Foundation in 1958. Our mission statement says: *"The Greater Montana Foundation benefits the people of Montana by encouraging communication, with an emphasis on electronic media, on issues, trends, and values of importance to present and future generations of Montanans."*

Currently, some of these GMF grant funds have been used to update the equipment in the current auditorium, where valuable historic art and artifacts collected by the Greater Montana Foundation's founder, E.B. Craney are exhibited and have also been donated by GMF. An additional grant of \$37,070 was made earlier to fund the digitization of donated archival materials, including historic audio-visual broadcast materials, of the Greater Montana Foundation.

Fundraising from private sources for the Montana Heritage Center has proved difficult without the support of state funding. We are confident that once the state bonding authority and funding is secured, it will be possible to launch an aggressive fundraising campaign to garner other support from private sources, like the Greater Montana Foundation. A strong and effective public-private partnership is essential for the success of this building project.

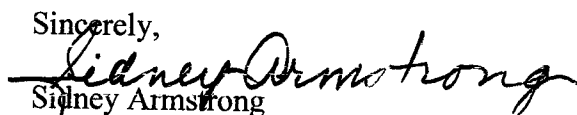
The new Montana Heritage Center will enhance and expand all the current programs of the Montana Historical Society and promote education and interest in the history of our state. It will make a significant contribution to the economic vitality not only of the capital city, but those many cities and towns which enjoy the resources of the five program areas of the Montana Historical Society.

This further encourages the establishment and support for local museums and historic preservation efforts, strengthening the fabric of local communities and promoting tourism and economic development. Towards that particular goal, as part of the almost \$300,000 allocated for a number of grants in 2012, GMF also granted \$10,000 for Montana Heritage Tour, a partnership of Helena Civic TV and the Montana Historical Society. This is but another example of how the Montana Historical Society, with partners like the Greater Montana Foundation serves communities across Montana.

This project selected small rural museums, and made six 30 minute videos during its first year. Highlighting Montana history through its rural museums, the series will also promote tourism and increase visibility of MHS in rural areas. Videos are offered to all TV channels, while DVDs to view and for sale will be available at MHS and in the local museums and can be uploaded to the internet. It is anticipated this will also help with the fundraising efforts for the Montana Heritage Center.

Your support for financial support and bonding authority for the Montana Heritage Center is an investment which will produce strong returns for our state. It is critical and will be deeply appreciated by the Greater Montana Foundation and all Montanans.

Sincerely,



Sidney Armstrong

Executive Director and member of the Board of Directors

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Ed Jasmin

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January 25, 2013

**Chairman Rob Cook and Members of
The Long-Range Planning Sub-Committee**


I am writing in favor of HB 14, "the jobs bill". As a former Regent I am well acquainted with the space needs of the various units of the University system. Education should be a high priority so our young people have the best chance to compete and succeed as tomorrow's leaders. Classrooms and related facilities are a critical part of the education component. I am particularly aware of the needs of the Missoula College (formerly the College of Technology) which is bursting at the seams with some of the school crammed into double-wide trailers.

In the 1950's, as a student at the UofM, my family lived in the University's Strip Housing on the edge of the golf course. Even then we knew that someday the University would need that space to expand. I sympathize with the Missoula golfers but education needs are a much higher priority.

As an aging fourth generation Montanan I have grown into a much greater appreciation of our past and the caretaker of that past, the Montana Historical Society. It too has aging and cramped quarters. Most importantly it has an opportunity to grow into a first class historical, cultural, tourist and educational facility for our citizens and tourists alike. I hope you have a chance to view the exciting schematics for its expansion on this campus.

In addition to accomplishing the critical building needs of the University System and our Historical Society, these projects would be a big economic boost to our construction industry at a time when it is needed. Interest rates couldn't be more favorable for a bonding program. Let's do our students and citizens a big favor and approve this proposal.

Thank you very much.



Ed Jasmin

Museums
Association of
Montana

January 16, 2013

Representative Rob Cook, Chairman
Long-Range Planning Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620
robc_hd27@itbusa.com

Dear Chairman Cook,

As the President of the Museums Association of Montana, I encourage you to support the \$23 million bonding authority in HB14 for the Montana Historical Society. On December 21, 1864, seven months after the creation of the Montana Territory, Council Bill 15 was introduced into the Territorial Legislature to create the Historical Society of Montana. Established in February 1865, the Historical Society is the oldest such institution west of the Mississippi and is respected around the country and around the world for its contributions to the fields of Montana and Western History.

The Montana Historical Society is truly a Montana treasure. Far from being a "Helena" museum, it represents and serves the entire state. From Troy to Alzada and from Lina to Plentywood, the Historical Society is known for representing all of Montana, and every museum in the state has benefited from the expertise so freely given by the staff at the Society.

Today the Historical Society is severely strapped for space – for collections, archives, exhibits, and public programming. To continue to serve the interests of Montanans from around the state, the Historical Society needs an up-to-date, state-of-the-art facility that will serve us all for years to come. Montana has a wealth of history and our citizens love that history; we deserve a modern showcase for that history. The Historical Society needs to be the place where all citizens can visit, admire, and learn about what has made Montana the great place to live in that it is. With space to preserve and exhibit the artifacts in its care and public space that will encourage greater use of the facility, the Montana Historical Society is the future, as well as the past, of the state of Montana.

I and the Board of Directors of the Museums Association of Montana encourage you to support HB14, to help preserve the past and celebrate the future of our great state.

Sincerely yours,



Robert M. Brown, President
Museums Association of Montana
Executive Director
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

MHF
MONTANA HISTORY
FOUNDATION

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January 24, 2013

Dear Members of the Long Range Building Committee:

We would like to express our support of the Montana Historical Society's (MHS) efforts to garner long range building funds for the construction of a new Montana Heritage Center.

The MHS is the largest history organization in Montana, tasked with being the state's "memory." Our collective memories are vast and priceless, and the MHS does the best job it can to make sure those memories don't fade.

For many years the Society has expressed concern about its current facility. The current site, although state of the art in the 1950's, is no longer adequate for the needs of today, much less tomorrow. Please look favorably upon MHS' request for long range building funds to construct a new facility and renovate the current building.

As an independent nonprofit fundraising organization that specifically raises funds for history projects, we know how daunting the task can be to raise large amounts of money for a building project. Providing state funds to build a state-owned building will go a long way towards helping the MHS procure donations from the general public to fill in the gaps.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Bruce Parker
Chairman
Montana History Foundation

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THE MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION IS AN INDEPENDENT 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

6
Letter's
Support

Rok Allen

City of Helena and Tom O'Connell with
architect and engineering in Administration have
worked very closely on all of the ^{proposed} ~~major~~ proposed
and preliminary infrastructure improvements
and "campus" concept ~~of~~ for the Capitol area.

~~the~~ The City ^{assumes you that it} agrees with the concepts
and will work diligently to implement
the all phases of the project.

